

He has have devoted a great deal of his time in Congress to the issues of national security. The issues on spare parts, I think American people would be shocked to go out on the flight line and see that we are swapping out engines to put F-14s in the air.

If we told our parents that, you know, I am going to be a little bit late for Christmas dinner because I have to pull the Chevy engine out of the car and put it in any other car, they say what are you doing; that sounds ridiculous. With the spare part problem out there that we are actually swapping out engines to put planes in the air is a little stunning.

I want to compliment the gentleman, because he has worked very hard on our spare part problem and concern.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, this is a good bill. I see the gentleman from California here. I want to say to the gentleman, too, our subcommittee, it is a great subcommittee to be a Member of, there is never any partisan rhetoric to speak of; and we try to focus in on trying to do the best possible job with the resources we have to do the best for defense.

I think this year, for example, taking the money and accelerating the two brigades that will be part of the Army's effort to lighten up and be more mobile. That is a great decision on the part of the committee. I hope the Congress will endorse that, and I hope we can get the Senate to go along with it.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I think we are going to see the real compliment of the work product that came, not only out of the authorizing committee, but also the gentleman's work, this bill is going to pass in a huge bipartisan bill. I compliment the gentleman.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It will pass with a very significant bipartisan vote of both Democrats and Republicans.

□ 1545

I would only like to underscore one point that I made earlier in the debate, and I would hope that the leadership on the other side of the aisle in this body will impress upon the leadership on their side of the aisle in the other body how important it is to move the defense supplemental for Kosovo and Bosnia right now. Because while there is significant money in this bill for 2001, our troops face a crisis in the fourth quarter for fiscal year 2000, beginning in about a month, because of the inability of this Congress to fund what has already happened in Bosnia and Kosovo, and because of the fact that this requires our military to take

money away from training and to take money away from the vital things that need to be done right now in the remainder of this fiscal year.

So while it is laudable that we are going to pass by a significant bipartisan vote a good piece of legislation for the fiscal year that starts October 1, we need to move the money in the supplemental for the remainder of this fiscal year, or we are going to face a real crisis situation starting about August 1.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) to close.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate what the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) spoke about and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS). The supplemental is important. We have over 21 ships that are tied up to the pier that cannot go anywhere, and we are going below that 300-ship Navy. Yet, there are some people on that side of the aisle that would even cut defense in an emergency situation like this. I think that is wrong.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations. When I served on the authorizing body, it was the absolute best committee to serve on. There are no Republicans and no Democrats on that committee; they are all looking forward to helping the men and women in the services. Unfortunately, when we get to this floor, there are critics of those policies that want to cut for social spending. That is wrong. We put at risk our men and women in the services.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA), the authorizers. This is a good rule. I thank especially the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations, who has been tied up in another committee today.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good rule and a good bill. I thank my colleagues for supporting it. We need to get the other body in line with the supplemental.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all

Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4576, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WICKER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 514 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4576.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) as chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1550

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4576) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes, with Mr. GILLMOR (Chairman pro tempore) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) and I are pleased to bring before the Membership today the fiscal year 2001 appropriations bill for the Department of Defense. This bill, which received strong bipartisan support in our subcommittee and the Committee on Appropriations, passing through the committee with no amendments, continues the efforts of the Congress to ensure that our Nation's military is ready for the challenge of the 21st century. Those challenges are daunting as any we have faced during the Cold War, and I am gratified that my colleagues understand that our security and the defense of freedom must remain above partisanship.

Mr. Chairman, let me say at the beginning of this that the foundation laid by our subcommittee is designed to make certain that America remains as the single superpower well into the